

Notes on Three Welsh Tombstones in Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale, PA

By S. Robert Powell

1. WIFE OF REV. JOHN DAVIS

In Memory of

MARY Wife of the Rev.d JOHN DAVIS

A native of Llansamlet in Wales who

Died Jan 30, 1832 aged 44 years

Canys byw i mi yw Crist a marw sydd elw

Translation

For me to live is Christ to die is gain.

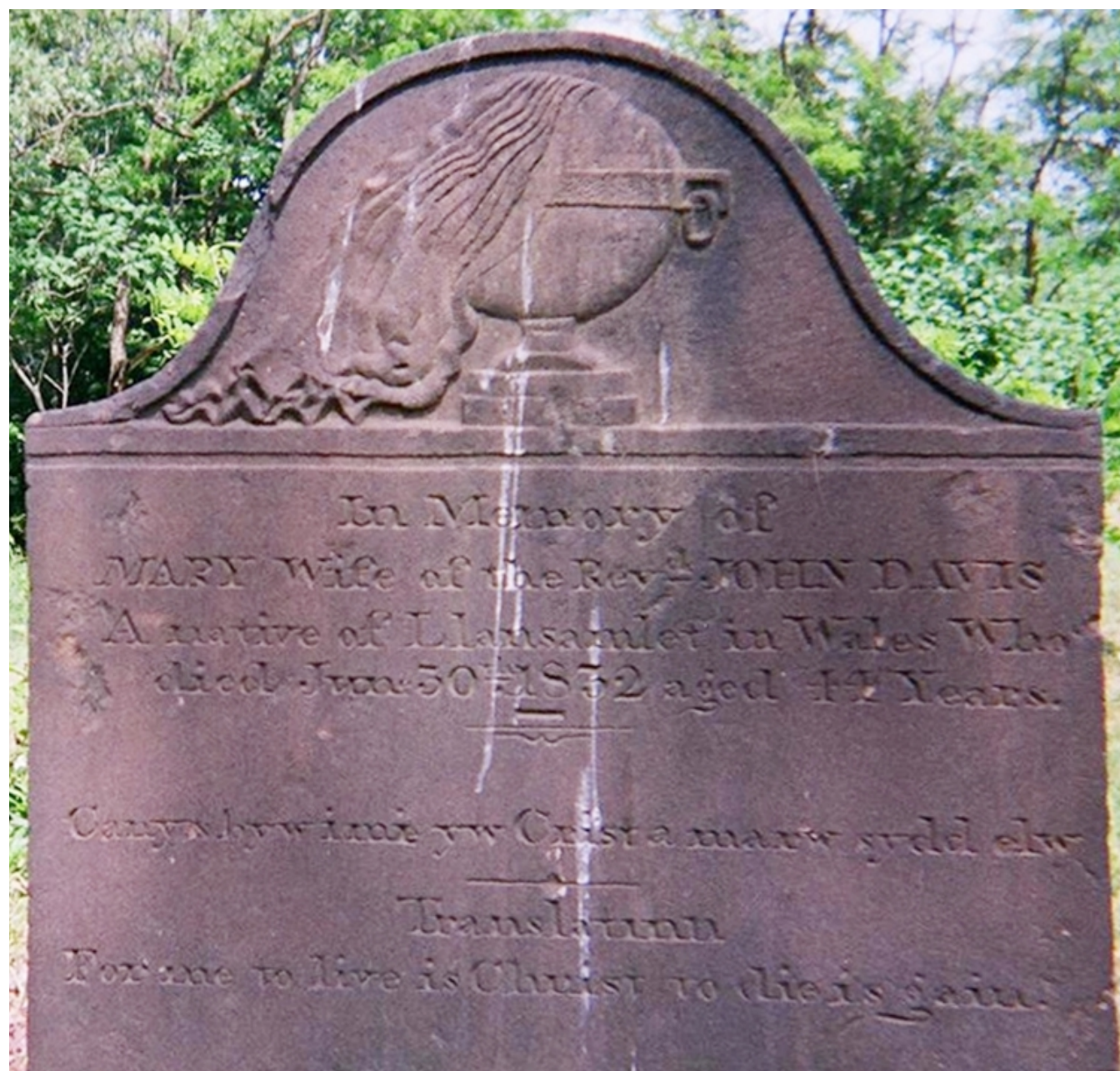


In Memory of
MARY Wife of the Rev^d JOHN DAVIS
A native of Llanusamlet in Wales Who
died June 30th 1852 aged 49 Years.

Cauwch yr wyddwr Crist a marw ydd eidd eidd

Translation

For me to live is Christ to die is gain



In Memory of
MARY Wife of the Rev^d JOHN DAVIS
A native of Llanhamlet in Wales Who
died Jan 30 1852 aged 49 Years.

Cauwch yw iant yw Crist a marw ydd ely

Translation

For me to live is Christ to die is gain.

Notes:

Llansamlet is a suburban district of Swansea, ceremonial county of West Glamorgan, Wales. Similar to many other places in Wales where the name begins with Llan, Llansamlet is named after a saint, Saint Samlet. There is a Saint Samlet's Church in the area on Church Road. Llansamlet was an important coal mining area from at least the 14th century. Initially coal was mined for export but with the coming of the copper industry in the 18th century much of the output was used for smelting purposes. In 1770 the principal mineral properties were acquired by Chauncy Townsend and they remained in his family until his great-grandson, Charles Henry Smith, relinquished them in 1870. By this time all the best seams had been worked out and output was in decline. Coal-working finally ceased in the first half of the 20th century. Much of the former mining area is now occupied by the Swansea Enterprise Park.

LLAN SAMLED, in the Cwmwd of Harfryn, Cantref of Ffyniog (now called the Hundred of Llan Gefelach), Co. of GLAMORGAN, South Wales. The Resident Population of this Parish, in 1801, (consisting of the Higher and Lower Divisions) was 2567. Here is a Free School, endowed during the pleasure of John Smith, Esq. This Parish contains about 5000 acres of cultivated Land, and about 500 acres uncultivated. There are excellent Seams of Coals now working in the Parish, which are conveyed in Barges by a Canal to the Sea-Port of Swansea. Here are also three large Copper-works, and two Mills for the purpose of finishing the Copper for Market."

Historically, the region was part of the Principality of Deheubarth until the Norman invasions between 1067-1101. From 1135 the Normans wrested the region from the Prince of Deheubarth and formed the basis for the Marcher Lordship of Kilvey of comital rank. After the Laws in Wales Act 1535 abolished Marcher lordships, the region was incorporated into the county of Glamorgan. The parish of Llansamlet became part of the borough of Swansea in two boundary changes in 1835 and 1918.^[1]

“For me to live is Christ to die is gain.” Philippians I: 21

Mary Davis is No. 55 in the Maplewood Cemetery interment records, where we read: “55 Davis Mrs. Rev. Jno. Removed from Yard [written in the ‘Disease’ column] April 8 1834 [Date of Burial in Maplewood Cemetery] Welsh [Nativity]” Mrs. Davis, who died on January 30, 1832 (nine months before Maplewood was established as a burying ground, in late October 1832) is one of seven burials that took place in Maplewood on April 8, 1834, all of them “Removed from Yard.” The

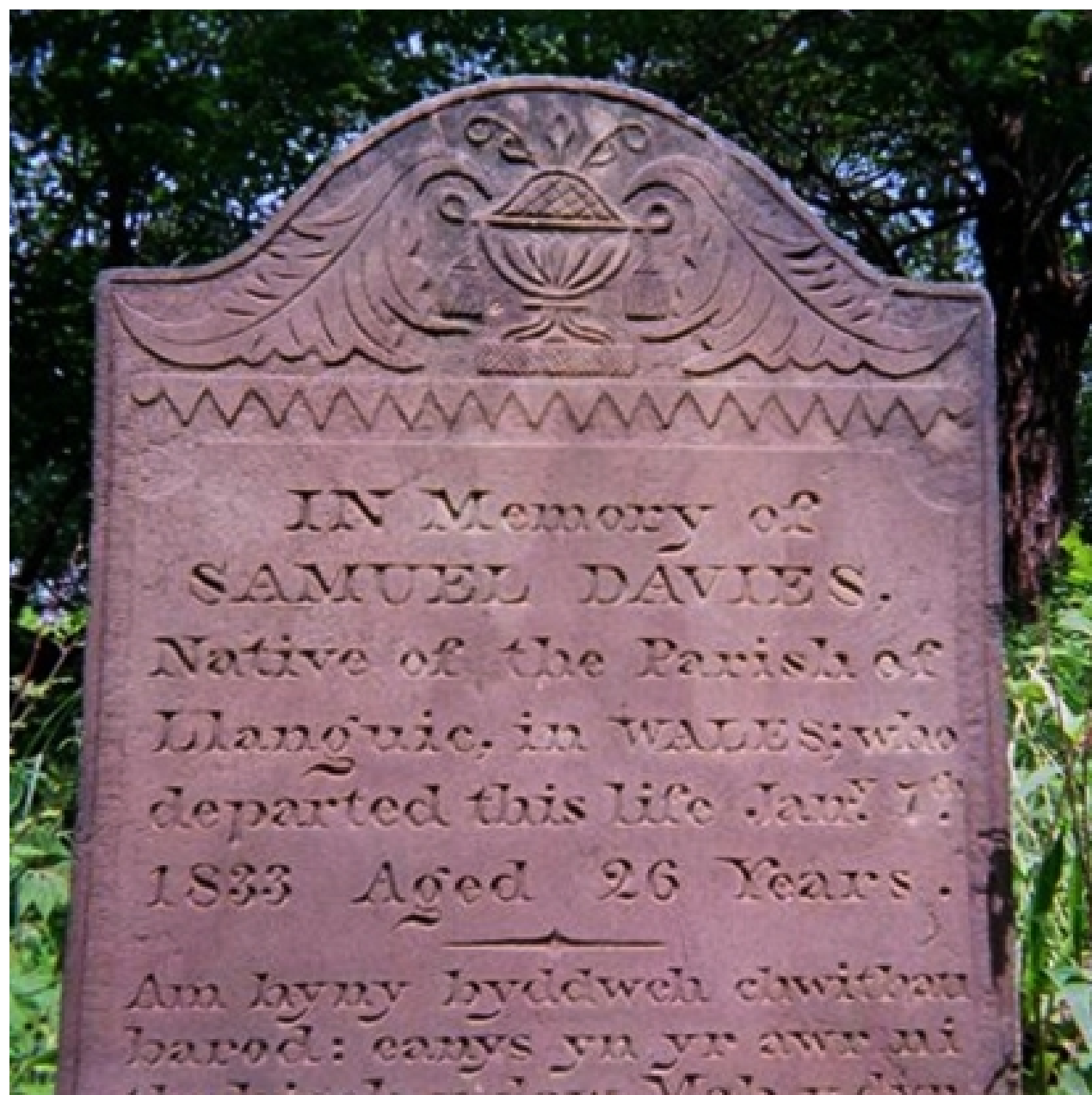
seven bodies in question were probably buried in the church yard of one of the early Welsh churches in Carbondale [possibly the First Baptist Church, which was formed by the 20 Welsh families who arrived in Carbondale on July 14, 1830; the Welsh Congregational Church received a gift of land from the D&H and organized their church in 1835. Their edifice (later owned by the Salvation Army) was on the west side of South Church Street at 8th Avenue, Rev. L. Williams was their first pastor.], and when Maplewood was established in late October 1832, the decision was made to remove the bodies from the church yard to Maplewood Cemetery.

2. SAMUEL DAVIES

**IN Memory of
SAMUEL DAVIES,
Native of the Parish of
Llanguic, in Wales, who
departed this life Jan.y 7th
1833 Aged 26 Years.**

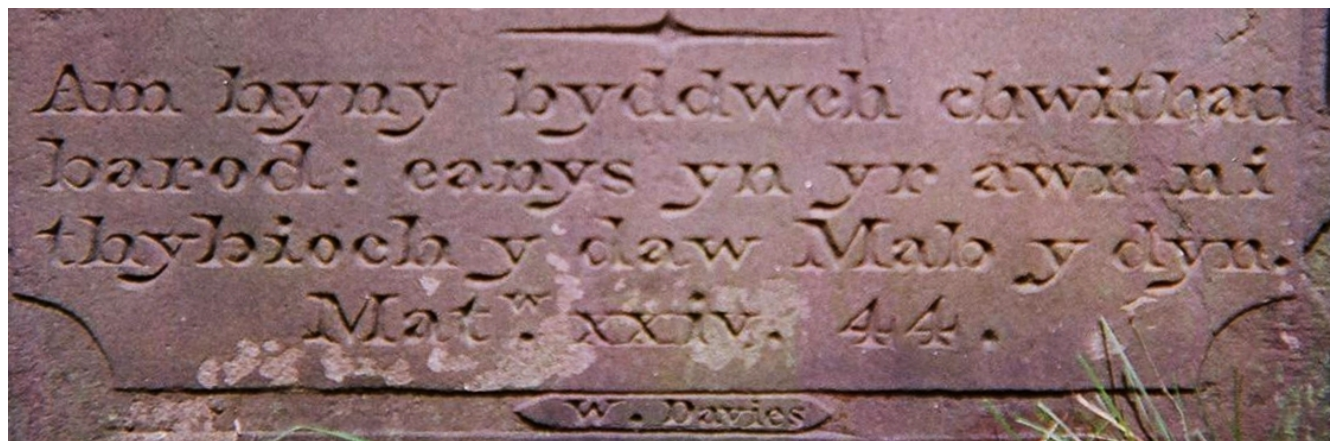
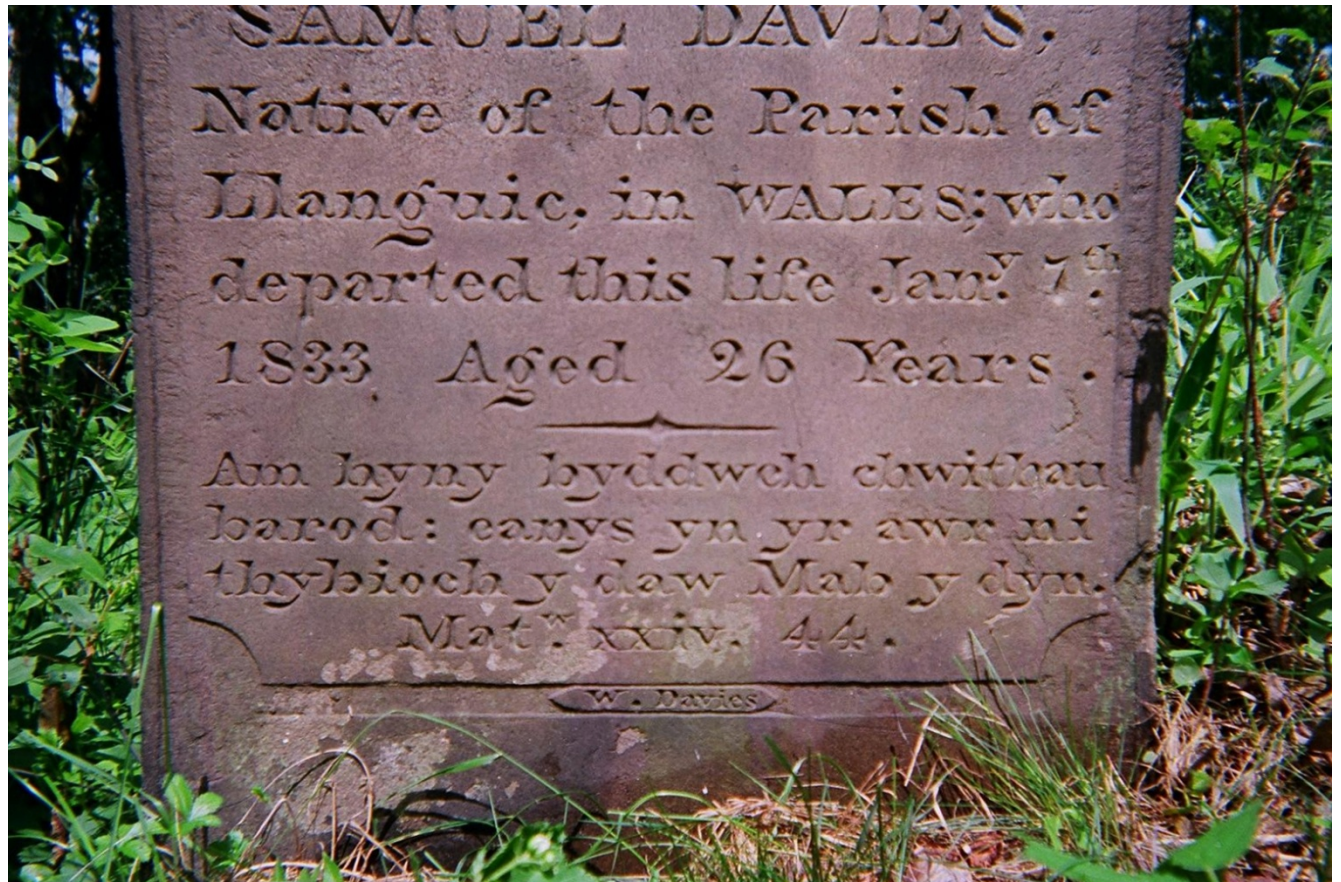
**Am hynny byddwch chwithau
barod: canys yn yr awr ni
thybioch y daw Mab y dyn.**

Mat.w XXIV.44





IN Memory of
SAMUEL DAVIES,
Native of the Parish of
Llangvlic, in WALES; who
departed this life Jan^y 7th
1833 Aged 26 Years.



Notes:

[Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.]

Llanguicke is 10 3/4 miles from Swansea. Llanguicke (also known as Llangiwg) was one of the very ancient parishes into which Glamorgan was divided, on the west bank of the river Tawe, opposite Cilybebyll on the east bank. Llanguicke was a very extensive area which included areas which became better known in later years as Pontardawe, Ystalyfera, Ynysmeudwy etc. Llanguicke is a very extensive and populous parish. Similar to many other places in Wales where the name begins with Llan, Llanguicke is named after a saint, Saint Cuik or Guick. The church of St Cuik, or Guick, standing on the top of a hill, is an ancient building of stone in the Norman style, consisting of nave, south porch and an embattled western tower with pinnacles, containing 2 bells; in 1812 it was new-roofed, and several alterations made; there are 300 sittings. A Welsh service is held on Sundays in the afternoon. The parish is on the Western side of the Swansea valley on the road from Swansea to Brecon, and extends to the boundary of the county of Glamorgan where it adjoins Breconshire and Carmarthenshire. It is in the Western division of the county of Glamorgan. The Swansea Canal runs through some parts of the parish.

Samuel Davis is no. 5 in the Maplewood Cemetery interment records, in which we read: "Davis Samuel [Age] 27 [Disease] Killed in Mines [Date of Death] Jan 7 1833 [Date of Burial] Jan 9 1833 [Nativity] Welsh"

Samuel Davis is No. 90 in the *Dundaff Republican / Northern Pennsylvanian* Marriage and Death records, where we read: "**Melancholy Accident.** On Monday morning last, about 8 o'clock, by some accident fire was communicated to a keg of powder in or about the coal mines, in this village, and which exploded and so severely wounded a Mr. Daniel Guynn, a Welch miner, that he only survived about two hours, and severely injured another, named Samuel Davis, who expired about twelve or fourteen hours after the explosion." (*Northern Pennsylvanian*, Thursday, January 10, 1833, p. 3). Samuel Davis and Daniel Guynn are the 5th and 6th persons, respectively, in the Maplewood Cemetery interment records. Therein we read: "5 Davis Samuel [Age] 27 [Disease] Killed in Mines [Date of Death] Jan 7 1833 [Date of Burial] Jan 9 1833 [Nativity] Welsh" and "6 Guin Daniel [Age] 19 [Disease] Killed in Mines [Date of Death] Jan 7 1833 [Date of Burial] Jan 9 1833 [Nativity] Welsh"

3. MAGDALENE DAVIES / WILLIAM DAVIES

IN Memory of
MAGDALENE Daughter of
WILLIAM and MARGARET
DAVIES, native of the Parish
of Llanglic in Wales who
departed this life March 12th
1834. Aged 5 Years.

In Memory of
WILLIAM DAVIES, native of
the Parish of Llanglic in
WALES county of Glamorgan
Died Dec. 3, 1837 AE 35 y.
Yea though I walk through the
Valley of the shadow of death I
will fear no evil for thou art
with me thy rod and thy
staff they comfort me.





IN Memory of
MAGDALENE Daughter of
WILLIAM and MARGARET
DAVIES, native of the Parish
of Llangurig in WALES; who
departed this life March 12th
1834 Aged 5 Years

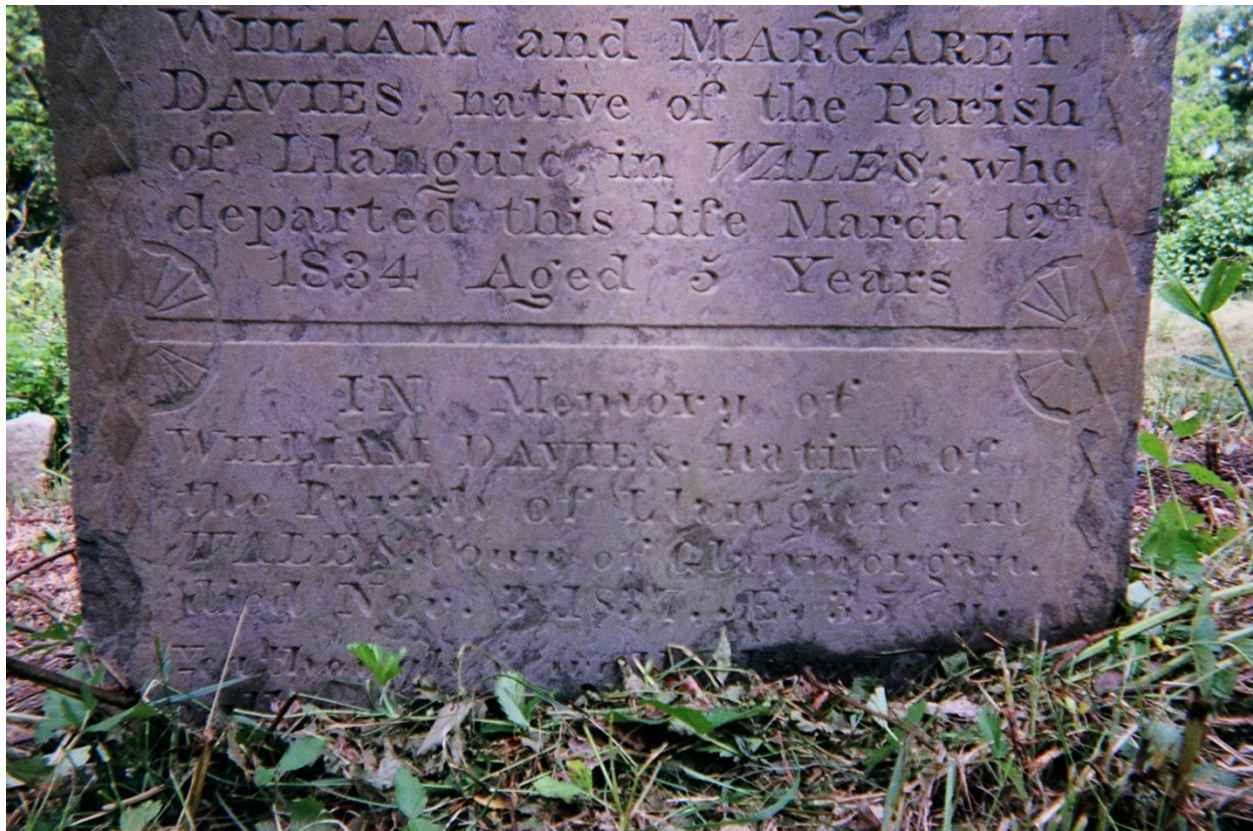
IN Memory of
WILLIAM DAVIES, native of
the Parish of Llangurig in
WALES, County of Glamorgan.
Born Nov. 3 1800. Died Dec. 3 1855. Aged 55 Years.

IN Memory of
MAGDALENE Daughter of
WILLIAM and MARGARET
DAVIES, native of the Parish
of Llangwic in WALES; who
departed this life March 12th
1834 Aged 5 Years

IN Memory of
WILLIAM DAVIES, native of
the Parish of Llangwic in
WALES, Son of Glamorgan,
died Nov. 3 1837, Aged 35 y.
Bapt. 1797

IN Memory of
MAGDALENE, Daughter of
WILLIAM and MARGARET
DAVIES, native of the Parish
of Llanguic, in *WALE*S; who
departed this life March 12th
1834 Aged 5 Years

IN Memory of
WILLIAM DAVIES, native of
the Parish of Llanguic, in



Magdalene Davies, who died on March 12, 1834, is not listed in the Maplewood Cemetery interment records. My guess is that she too, like Mrs. John Davis (see above) is probably a removal of the body from the church yard of a Carbondale Welsh church [possibly the First Baptist Church, which was formed by the 20 Welsh families who arrived in Carbondale on July 14, 1830; the Welsh Congregational Church received a gift of land from the D&H and organized their church in 1835. Their edifice (later owned by the Salvation Army) was on the west side of South Church Street at 8th Avenue, Rev. L. Williams was their first pastor.] to Maplewood, possibly at the time (1837) when her father's earthly remains were interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

William Davies, who died on December 3, 1837, is listed as No. 154 in the Maplewood Cemetery interment records, in the following entry:

“Davies Wm [Disease] Liver Complaint [Date of Death] Dec 3 [Date of Burial] Dec 5 [Nativity] Welsh”

The Welsh persons described above were very probably among one of two groups of Welsh immigrants who arrived in Carbondale from Wales in the period 1830-1832. The first group, 20 Welsh families, arrived in Carbondale on July 14, 1830; the second group, 70 Welsh families, arrived in Carbondale in October 31, 1832.